GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3114
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
STEM CELL THERAPY
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private hospitals in the country have started Stem cell therapy;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether international approval of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had been obtained by such hospitals before the start of the same;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the guidelines of the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (e): Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi has informed that some of the private hospitals in the country have started stem Cell Therapy. The major private institute involved in stem cell research and therapy in India is the L.V Prasad Eye Institute, based at Hyderabad. Its doctors succeeded in transplanting limbal stem cell to more than 200 patients. According to media reports recently the NeuTech Mediworld, New Delhi has claimed treating 100 cases with various ailments by embryonic stem cell therapy.

Approval of US FDA is not required to start this kind of practice in India. Approval of Institutional Ethics Committee is required and once the Apex Committee is in position, registration and permission have to be taken from the National Apex Committee for Stem Cell Research and Therapy.

Indian Council of Medical Research has drafted guidelines to help in regulation of stem cell research and its application in the year 2002 and those were put on ICMR web site for suggestions and comments. The draft guidelines cover all the important issues related to Stem Cell Research sand Therapy.